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## W A R T I M E   E X T E N S I O N   W O R K

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS  
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Some items in this week's summary:

Cooperative working plan set up for conservation in soil districts.  
Milkweed-pod yields as high as 100 bags an acre reported by  
pickers.

County fair exhibits in mountain counties show success of live-  
at-home program.

Extension clubwomen teach weaving, basketry, and leatherwork  
to Army hospital patients.

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KENTUCKY  
October 15, 1944

Tobacco harvest.- Complete reversal from dry weather during July and early August to highly seasonable weather in late August and September necessitated calling on Army for 2,000 prisoners of war for tobacco harvest. Side camps were established for 300 workers at Maysville, 300 at Eminence, 300 at Frankfort, and 600 at Lexington. In addition, 400 prisoners of war were assigned to work directly out of Camp Campbell in Christian and other counties. Farmers requested approximately twice as many prisoners as were made available, necessitating prorating prisoners to counties on percentage of contract basis. School children, housewives, storekeepers, shopgirls, bank clerks, and aged and infirm also helped to harvest in Kentucky's most important cash crop. When first killing frost came, virtually all of estimated 478,000,000-pound crop of burley tobacco was in barns.

Feed production.- Feed situation in Kentucky improved greatly after late-summer and fall rains. Although many farmers will get good late cuttings of alfalfa or lespedeza hay, considerable hay is still being brought into some counties that were drought-stricken during summer. County agents report more fall-sown alfalfa than in any previous year. They also report unusual amounts of Balbo rye and other winter pasture crops being seeded where grasses and legumes were killed by drought. In some counties farmers are taking advantage of feed-wheat program and stocking up to meet expected feed shortage.

Annual fat-cattle show.- Members of 4-H and Utopia Clubs in 37 counties are finishing nearly 100 carlots of cattle for annual fat-cattle show and sale at Louisville. Cash prizes totaling \$3,578, three trips to Chicago, and other premiums will be

given to winners. Rings will include carlots, five head from carlots, calves raised by boys and girls, best calves in each breed, and record books. More than 200 head will be shown by members of Utopia Clubs--organization of older farm boys and girls.

Home canning.-- Despite severe drought from May to late July, homemakers in Kentucky canned thousands of quarts of vegetables and fruits by putting up a few quarts at a time. Fall gardens have been unusually successful, providing late beans, corn, broccoli, carrots, and other vegetables. In Jefferson County, where it is estimated more than 12,000 Victory Gardens were grown, 300 4-H Club girls canned 5,485 quarts of fruits and vegetables, more than twice amount they canned last year. Webster County club members canned more than 8,000 quarts.

Milkweed harvest.-- Climbing milkweed, found in considerable quantity in counties bordering Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, is expected to be source of 150,000 bags of pods in Kentucky. 4-H Club members and others are responding to call for workers.

County fairs.-- Canning, garden products, field crops, and clothing were principal exhibits at fairs in eastern Kentucky counties in September and October. Displayed in windows on main streets, products showed how successfully live-at-home program has been carried out in these mountain counties.

Labor-saving equipment.-- To meet labor shortage, farmers are installing elevators and other forms of labor-saving machinery. For example, George Wright of Daviess County designed and made machine out of old hayfork that takes baled hay to loft. Thomas Beyke designed and made corn elevator which he uses to fill cribs.

Hog production.-- Improved methods of hog production, especially tilted floors in farrowing houses, now being used by hundreds of farmers in State, are bringing good returns. For example, Harvey Thrasher, of Hancock County, sold litter of 9 pigs that weighed average of 234 pounds when 5 months 18 days old. Farrowed in tilted houses in clean ground, pigs run on rape pasture and are full-fed balanced rations.

## MISSOURI

October 20, 1944

Soil conservation.-- Working plan for doing best possible job of conservation in Missouri soil districts was agreed upon at meeting of State and county extension workers and Soil Conservation Service representatives. Agents and technicians were present from 14 established soil districts.

Farmer will apply for assistance to District Board of Supervisors, who will determine priority. SCS will make land classification within each organized district. County agent will explain classification through newspapers. Farm planning in district becomes joint responsibility of county agent and other agency workers to allow full consideration of all phases of complete management system for each farm. Group meetings of applicants, called by county agent, will be conducted by both agent and SCS technician.

Farmer makes own plan with assistance from SCS technician on soil and water conservation practices. County agent studies individual farm plans, meets with group of farmers submitting plans from same neighborhood, and with them completes balanced farming plans. Completed plans are then submitted to District Board of Supervisors for approval and priority rating.



Balanced farming.- Balanced-farming report from Adair County tells of J. J. Sanders 80-acre farm, which this year has supported 46 head of livestock, producing also reserve of feed grain and alfalfa hay sufficient to carry animals through coming winter. Stock includes 33 head of mature Jerseys. Last year, with average of 14 cows in milk, farm gave income of \$2,458. First year Sanders owned farm, he was able to carry only 10 or 12 head of livestock. At that time neighbors assured him place was "completely worn out." To rebuild it he has used 212 tons of lime, large quantities of fertilizer and barnyard manure, and cropping system rich in legumes.

More than 100 farm men and women gathered at J. C. Longan farm in Pettis County recently to see results and progress made by Longans in 8 years they have used balanced farm program. Plan has been successful in conserving soil, increasing net farm income, and improving family living. This year 5,000 pounds more beef has been marketed than in better years before plan was put into operation.

Cotton ginning improvement.- Short course given in August for gin workmen appears to have had good results. With two-fifths of Missouri's 1944 crop ginned, only 2.6 percent of lint ginned was rated by Federal cotton classers as showing "rough preparation." In first third of U. S. cotton crop ginned, 16.8 percent showed rough preparation. This showing is encouraging to growers, ginnerers, and extension workers, because a few years ago Missouri stood near bottom of cotton-producing States in this respect.

Clothing.- In four Missouri counties, 516 dress forms made this year by women in extension home sewing classes are given high valuation by owners. These women say forms were made at cash cost of only \$1.50 each, as compared with \$15, which is average cost of commercial forms. Women count immediate gains from project as being more than \$6,900. Carroll County women made 300 forms, Adair 79, Polk 70, and Linn 67. In addition to saving of \$13.50 for 2 days of work required to make dress form, each woman cooperating has assurance of better fitting garments and greater ease in making them.

4-H Clubs.- Immense volume and high quality of essential foods produced by members of Missouri 4-H Clubs were indicated in two recent shows. These were Baby Beef and Pig Show at St. Joseph and American Royal Fat Stock Show at Kansas City. Exhibited at St. Joseph were 475 fat calves and 324 fat barrows, all produced by 4-H boys and girls of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska. Missouri produced 75 percent of total. At Kansas City, 310 baby beeves were exhibited by youthful producers from Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Iowa. High percentage of these consisted of 4-H exhibits, most of which were from Missouri.

Eleven carloads of finished baby beeves exhibited in one class at St. Joseph were produced by Missouri boys and girls. Carload in this class consisted of 15 animals produced by 15 individual club members. In ton litter class 17 ton litters were exhibited, all weighing at least a ton at 180 days of age. Heaviest litter was exhibited by Herbert Clizer, 15-year-old club member from Andrew County, Mo., whose 14 crossbred Berkshire-Chester Whites weighed 3,340 pounds at 200 days. Total weight of 4-H beeves and pigs at St. Joseph was about half a million pounds.

Heavyweight Hereford 4-H class at American Royal had 55 entries. Every animal in this class weighed more than 950 pounds. Angus heavyweight class at same show had 60 4-H entries. Most carcasses graded choice to prime; none lower than good.

4-H Club girls also were given opportunity to exhibit their clothing, canning and baking products at St. Joseph and responded with nearly 1,000 exhibits.

Milkweed Harvest.- County agents in 50 counties having large areas of bottom land are driving hard for harvest of climbing-milkweed pods to provide floss for life jackets. Dependent upon favorable weather, State goal has been set at half million bags. Yields as high as 100 bags an acre are reported in some localities. Pickers in St. Charles County found milkweed pods cure well in corn shocks and can be salvaged easily when shock corn is husked. In Mississippi County it was discovered that mechanical corn pickers gather milkweed pods with ear corn. Arrangements were made with elevator owners to call high school when loads of corn and milkweed pods arrive at these markets. Schools, regardless of hour, send boys to pick out pods as they come through conveyor. Clay County reports that alert collector can earn \$6 to \$10 a day picking *Gonolobus* (climbing) milkweed pods in fields where it has a heavy growth.

Aid to Army hospital and U. S. O.- Home-economics extension clubs and home demonstration agent of Laclede County have joined with other groups in program of service to soldiers and hospital patients at nearby Fort Leonard Wood. Clubs in county seat, Lebanon, and throughout county have agreed to bake definite quotas of cookies each week for "Cookie Jar" at U. S. O., using sugar sold to them by that organization. Clubs are also cooperating with Red Cross in forming "Arts and Skills Corps" to visit Fort Wood General Hospital 3 days a week to teach weaving, basketry, and leatherwork to ambulatory patients. These activities help men to keep their hands busy and minds occupied.

Feed supply.- Balbo rye sown in August has come quickly to aid of many farmers whose feed supplies had run dangerously low. Twenty days after he seeded his rye, J. B. Daniels in Laclede County was letting his cows graze it lightly, and 2 weeks later they were on it every day. Milk production went up more than 50 percent. Much farther north, on Wesley DeVaul farm in Caldwell County, 10 acres of Balbo rye sown on August 8 has been furnishing pasture for 16 head of cattle since middle of September.